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IN THE CLAIMS:

Enclosed herewith is an Attachment For Claim Amendments setting forth additions underlined and deletions square bracketed. Claim 3 is cancelled.

Please amend the following claims:

2. (Twice Amended) A motor vehicle frame assembly having a first tubular frame member, and a structural member disposed in the first tubular frame member, the structural member comprising:

β_1 a generally tubular body having an outer perimeter complementary to an inner perimeter of the first tubular frame member, the tubular body being disposed within the first tubular frame member to increase the movement of inertia of the first tubular frame member; and

at least one rib disposed in the tubular body;

wherein the frame assembly further includes a second tubular frame member intersecting the first tubular frame member to form a joint and the structural member is located in the first tubular frame member at the joint.

4. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is constructed of aluminum.

β_2 5. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is constructed of steel.

6. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is extruded.

7. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is machined.

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8. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached to the first tubular frame member.

9. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by an interference fit.

10. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by adhesive.

B2 11. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by fasteners.

12. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 8, wherein the structural member is fixedly attached by external depressions.

13. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the tubular body has a length and the rib extends the length of the tubular body.

14. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the rib is orientated generally horizontally.

15. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the rib is orientated generally vertically.

16. (Twice Amended) The motor vehicle frame assembly of Claim 2, wherein the at least one rib comprises multiple ribs orientated in an intersecting pattern.

Kindly add the following new claims 17-20:

B3 17. (New) A motor vehicle frame assembly having first and second elongate frame members and a reinforcing member, the reinforcing member comprising:

a tube having an outer perimeter closely conforming to an inner perimeter of a tubular

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portion of the first frame member and a reinforcement structure spanning an interior void of the tube; and

wherein the first and second frame members are connected at a joint and the reinforcing member is disposed in the first frame member at the joint.

B3 18. (New) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a longitudinal rib.

19. (New) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the second frame member is tubular and the joint occurs at a central portion of the first frame member, the reinforcing member extending within the first frame member through the joint.

20. (New) The motor vehicle frame assembly of claim 17, wherein the reinforcing member is fully enclosed by the first frame member.

Remarks

In the Office Action, claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Vlahovic, and claims 2 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Norlin. Claims 5, 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vlahovic in view of the well known prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Pursuant to an Interview with the Examiner on February 10, 2003, Claim 2 has been further revised to distinguish the claimed subject matter over the references of record. New claims 17-20 also further distinguish over the references of record.

As amended, Claims 2 and 4-20 remain in the application. Withdrawal of the standing rejections, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.